



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Psychology

MOTHER-IN-LAW AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW DISHARMONY

KEY WORDS: Mother-in-law, Daughter-in-law.

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ABSTRACT

Disharmony between mothers and daughters-in-law is common throughout India. Because of this relationship, the entire family's atmosphere has become negative. Mother-in-law and daughter-in-law conflict arises from the assumption that each will criticize or undermine the other. However, this mutual anxiety may be due to entrenched feminine stereotypes that few of us are able to reject fully. This article illustrates the reasons for disharmony between mothers and daughters-in-law. Numerous studies illustrated various reasons for disharmony between mothers and daughters-in-law.

The relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law is a long-standing issue that has endured throughout human history. A disgruntled daughter-in-law, unable to cope with her mother-in-law's influence over little but crucial issues, seeks assurance from her husband or parents. If the demand for assurance is ignored or dismissed, it leads to greater discontent and problems in the marriage. Discord between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law is negatively related to women's marital adjustment and psychological well-being.

Hsing-Miao (2007) and Adhikari (2015) concluded that the mother-in-law is hesitant to share the most important person in her life. Apparently, because the mother-in-law used to receive all of the attention from the son, the arrival of the daughter-in-law divides the son's attention, which the mother does not take lightly. The son is enjoying his new lover, leaving the mother with little attention. Such events may lead to resentment and animosity.

Huang and Hsu (2010) and Choi et al. (2010) discovered that mothers-in-law interfere with the way their grandchildren are raised. The mother-in-law wants her grandchildren raised according to their culture, especially if the daughter-in-law comes from a different cultural background. Families are prone to maintain their cultural values and customs to the point of ensuring that their grandkids are raised in accordance with their culture's mandates. This may not be acceptable to the daughters-in-law, who may hold a different opinion. Such disparities may cause considerable discord between the two.

Haarr (2007) A woman who conforms to her in-laws is thought to be a decent daughter-in-law.

Rittenour and Soliz (2009) stated that a positive relationship with mothers-in-law has a direct impact on the mental health of daughters-in-law.

According to **Kaneko and Yamada (1990)**, sharing a kitchen was a cause of contention between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law. Traditionally, the mother-in-law is in charge of the kitchen. When the daughter-in-law joins the household, she takes up all of the cooking responsibilities that the mother-in-law used to handle. The present survey also found that the mothers-in-law are curious about how the utensils are handled. Breakages or mishandling are not tolerated. If this occurs, the daughter-in-law will be chastised, which she will not take lightly.

According to **Brink (1987)**, women attained their maximum position when they became mothers-in-law and could direct the labour of their daughters-in-law. Power was wielded in the form of decision-making, and dominance was exercised over what the daughter-in-law did. If the son contributed and helped, the mother-in-law was pleased, however sharing his wife's job was ridiculed as henpecked nature. **Brinks (1987)**,

also found that sons discussed plans with their mothers, allowing mothers to participate in family financial decisions. When the mother-in-law was doing home chores, the daughter-in-law participants were assigned to assist her by doing things like cleaning the dishes, slicing food, shredding coconut, and so on (in all circumstances).

Kandiyoti (1988) Women often enter their new household with little status or power, whereas their mother-in-law, as the senior woman in the house, gets social prestige and decision-making authority.

Merrill (2007) concluded that daughters-in-law who are rejected by their mothers-in-law are more likely to experience unpleasant feelings such as anxiety, wrath, guilt, and shame. While performing mundane tasks, mothers-in-law frequently refer to their daughters-in-law as indolent. One main cause of stress is criticism (**Feeney, 2004**). People who face constant rejection (verbal or nonverbal) are clearly in danger of developing psychological problems (**Vangelisti, 1994**).

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this research was to identify the grounds for the discord between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. Several research has indicated that there are several factors connected with disharmony between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. Marriage counsellors, psychologists, and clergymen will benefit from this work as well because they provide both pre-marital and post-marital counselling to couples to-be and couples. This study will serve society as a whole by increasing their understanding of the potential dispute between the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law and providing a resolution.

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